

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH

## OF THE

### SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT IN 1897.

CENSUS 1881.	CENSUS 1891.
No. of Acres ... .. 1660	No. of Acres ... .. 1678*
Inhabited Houses ... .. 838	Inhabited Houses ... .. 1102
Population ... .. 4059	Population ... .. 5418

\* 78 Acres transferred to Tunbridge Wells, in November, 1894.

The **POPULATION** of Southborough, estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General was **6489** at the middle of 1897, showing an increase of 182 since the middle of 1896.

One hundred and sixty-six births were registered during the year, including 73 of males and 93 of females. The **Birth-rate** was **25·5** per 1000 of population, being the same rate as for the previous year.

Eighty-three deaths were returned, which included 39 of males and 44 of females, giving a general **Death-rate** of **13·4** per 1000, as against 15 in 1896, and 12·9 in 1895.

Of the total 83 deaths registered, seven were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz., one by Diphtheria, one by Enteric Fever, and five by Diarrhœa.

The **ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE** was **1·0** per 1000 as against 3·1 in 1896.

The **INFANT MORTALITY**, *i.e.*, the deaths of infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was **132**, as compared with 192 in the previous year.

For England and Wales, taken as a whole, the birth-rate during 1897 was 29·7; the General Death-rate, 17·4; and the Zymotic Death-rate, 2·15 per 1,000 of population. The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age was 156.

The above figures speak for themselves and may be regarded as highly satisfactory, shewing, as they do, that in the Southborough Urban District the General Death-rate and the Zymotic Death-rate were respectively 4·0 per 1,000 and 1·15 per 1,000 below the rates for England and Wales during 1897, while the rate of infant mortality was 24 per 1,000 births below that for England and Wales during this period.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.** Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, 21 cases were reported as against 66 in 1896 and 30 in 1895, including 14 of Scarlet Fever, five of Diphtheria, one of Enteric Fever, and one of Erysipelas.

**SCARLET FEVER.** None of the 14 cases reported ended fatally. They occurred one in January, one in May, one in September, three in October, four in November, and four in December, and at the following age—periods:

5-15 years	15-25 years	
<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	14 cases

**DIPHTHERIA.** Five cases were reported, one of which took a fatal course, that of a girl aged five years, in February, at High Brooms. The cases occurred one in each of the months of February, March, April, May and September, at the following age—periods:

5-15 years	15-25 years	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	5 cases.
	1	1 death.

**ENTERIC FEVER.** One case was notified in October and ended fatally, the patient being a youth aged 16 years, living in Colebrook Road.

**ERYSIPELAS.** Only one case, which recovered of this disease, was reported during the month of January.

**NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**

**DIARRHŒA** was the only non-notifiable Zymotic disease which caused any deaths, viz., five, four in August and one in September. Those in the former month were all of infants under one year of age, while that in the latter month was of a male aged 66 years.

It is extremely satisfactory that not a single death resulted from either Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Membranous Croup, Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas, Measles, Whooping-cough, or Influenza, and comparing the number of cases of notified diseases (21) during 1897, with that during 1896 (66), the condition of the District in this respect has been excellent throughout the year.

**ISOLATION.**

Three cases of infectious disease were treated at the Isolation Hospital during 1897, as compared with 42 in 1896.

One case was admitted in each of the following months, viz., March, May, and September. Two were cases of Scarlet Fever, and one a case of Diphtheria. After treatment in the Hospital for periods varying from 46 to 34 days the patients were discharged well, no death having occurred in the Hospital throughout the year.

**WATER SUPPLY.**

The Council have during past years specially directed their attention to this important matter, and the Waterworks, under the Council's own control, yield a water of good quality, of which the following is a recent analysis:

		Grains per Gallon.	
Hardness, Total	...	6.7	
,, Permanent	...	6.3	
Chlorine	...	1.9	
Total Solids...	...	11.2	
Loss on ignition	...	2.4	
Free Ammonia	...	.006	} Parts per 1,000,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	.02	
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 degrees F.	...	.006	} Grains per Gallon.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 degrees F.	...	.013	
Nitrites...	...	absent	
Phosphoric Acid	...	slight trace	

The quantity obtainable has not, however, been found equal to the demand consequent on the increasing requirements of the place, and it was deemed necessary to supplement the supply.

For some time past boring operations have been carried on, but the water obtained has not been so satisfactory either in quantity or quality as was expected, and the services of an expert water engineer have recently been secured to advise on the best future course to adopt.

Mr. Harmer's Report on work done during the year, and the customary tables and returns required by the Local Government Board are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
JAMES SCOTT TEW.

March 2nd, 1898.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Nuisances dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector during the Year  
ending Christmas, 1897.

New Drainage from sinks and traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage unstopped and thoroughly cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Drains to house and traps complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New W.c. pans and traps...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New W.c. apparatus complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Take up, alter falls, and relay outside pavings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Wells condemned with impure supplies, and 12 houses connected with town supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manure accumulation removed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eaves guttering to roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Rain water pipes renewed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fowl runs cleansed and removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Flushing Arrangements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Wells closed and domed over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provide new Sanitary Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Build watertight Cesspool...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Drainage into new Cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Case of overcrowding...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools emptied and cleaned...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

In addition to the above a large number of minor cases dealt with verbally.

WILLIAM HARMER,  
Sanitary Inspector.

# THE HEALTH

OF THE

## SOUTHBOROUGH

URBAN

### SANITARY DISTRICT,

IN

1897.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW,

M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

